

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 11th August 1900.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 30th July says that the Persian army ought to receive the special consideration of the Persian Government. Now-a-days might is right.

HABLUL MATEEN,
July 30th, 1900.

Every civilised Government is, therefore, rapidly increasing its military strength and is spending a considerable portion of its revenue on its army and its navy and their proper equipment. It is a matter of satisfaction that Persia is very busy in reorganising her administration. It is to be hoped that she will leave no stone unturned to reorganise her army and navy.

2. The same paper says that the governing body of an Islamic constitution

HABLUL MATEEN.

The Musalman Church and the Musalman State.

ought to be composed partly of the Musalman clergy, to attend to the spiritual matters of the Musalmans, and partly of laymen, to look after their temporal affairs. If such a body do not act according to the dictates of religion, the Persian nation ought to take steps to mend the matter. Caliph Ali held law in one hand and the sword with the other. By the sword he propagated Islam and by the law he governed the country. He was at once the commander of the Islamic army and the head of the Islamic church. When the Iman of Islam, had both these spiritual and temporal functions in his charge, the *alims* of the present day ought, as a matter of course, to be given a military training, so that they may look after the temporal as well as the spiritual welfare of the Musalmans. Such training has become very rare in the modern Islamic world, and specially in Persia, and it does not appear that it will be easy to introduce it among the Musulmans. But when one studies the ancient history of Islam and also the present mode of living and thinking among the Europeans which they have taken from the Musalmans, the task of introducing such training does not seem impossible. Mr. Gladstone had to look after the religious as well as the political interests of the Protestant Church of England. In fact, the existing differences between the head of the Islamic church and the head of the Islamic body politic proceed from the selfishness of both, or the evil should not continue to find a place in the Islamic world.

3. The same paper says that it is a regret that the Persian officials do not

HABLUL MATEEN.

A complaint against a Persian official.

hesitate to ruin the people in order to enrich themselves. The Revenue Collector of Shiraz is in the habit of extorting money from the people. We are sorry to say that no one complains of the conduct of that official. One of the Persian newspapers writes of the manner in which the official extorted money, but does not say that such conduct on the part of an official was calculated to ruin the subject people.

4. A correspondent of the same paper complains that, on account of the

HABLUL MATEEN.

Postal mismanagement at Bandar Abbas.

mismanagement of the Post Office at Bandar Abbas, great delay is caused in the despatch and delivery of the postal articles. Such delay causes no inconsiderable loss to the merchants of Persia. If instances of such delay and misdelivery are brought to the notice of the Postal authorities, they fail to account for them. The higher Postal authorities ought to direct their attention to the matter. It is often brought to the notice of the Editor of the *Hablul Mateen* that on many occasions packets of his paper were lost by the Post Office. The Agent of the paper in Bandar Abbas also complains that such packets are received after 30 or 40 days after the issue of the paper. Such delay, of course, arises from the mismanagement of the Postal Department at Bandar Abbas.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

5. The *Hitakari* [Kushtia] of the 30th July writes as follows:—

HITAKARI,
July 30th, 1900.

Police oppression in Bengal.

The more are we discussing the question of police reform, the more is police oppression increasing. Police oppression is, indeed, so much increasing, that it is impossible to put it down. When we read of the oppression and high-handedness of the *Nawabi*-days, our heart, as it were, shrinks in fear. Is it not a regret that we should read of such oppression and high-handedness even during the civilised British rule? Such oppression is rare even among the most barbarous tribes.

So long the police were known as tyrannous, oppressive, cruel, and corrupt. But the fiendish acts of the police, which are being brought to the public notice, are simply dreadful.

The writer refers to the Murshidabad and Kamrup cases and observes as follows:—

It is the duty of the police to punish *badmashes*, and to detect thieves by making them confess their guilt. But it is not their duty to oppress a criminal in a fiendish manner. There are police officers who say that it is impossible to detect a crime without putting some pressure upon the supposed criminal. But that is no reason why they should commit such fiendish outrage upon the wives, mothers, and sisters, even of criminals. The Government should take immediate steps to save the honour of the public from such fiendish tyrants.

HITAKARI,
July 30th, 1900.

6. The same paper writes that there is a recrudescence of theft in Kumarkhali. The other day there was a theft in the house of the late Babu Harish Chandra Maitra, of Kesavpur, and ornaments, valued at about Rs. 2,000, were stolen. The offender has not yet been traced. The local Senior Sub-Inspector is an able police officer, but he has to do a large amount of clerical work, and cannot, therefore, pay sufficient attention to the detection of crime.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 31st, 1900.

7. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 31st July says that daring dacoities were committed on the 29th July last, in the houses of Uma Charan Babu and others of village Jotkubir, within the jurisdiction of the Jamalpur thana, in the Burdwan district, by a gang consisting of a large number of men. The house-owners were beaten and otherwise ill-used by the dacoits, who robbed them of all they possessed. The authorities should enquire into the cause of a number of dacoities within this thana within a short period.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Aug. 1st, 1900.

8. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 1st August writes that a murder was committed at Lalgola in the Murshidabad district on the 24th July last. The murdered man, Gokul, was a seller of domestic utensils and had come to Lalgola on the occasion of the *Rathjatra* festival. The man was murdered in his room and his body was discovered in a pool of blood. The Sub-Inspectors of the Dewan Sarai and Raghunathganj thanas and the Inspector of Jungipur are making an enquiry, and two men have been arrested on suspicion. It is alleged that Gokul had a quarrel with some people before he went home at night. It will be a great regret if the murderer is not found out. The people of the locality will have to live in great insecurity, and great harm will be done to the annual *Rath mela* at Lalgola if the murder is not traced. The District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police should leave no stone unturned to trace this daring murder.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Aug. 1st, 1900.

9. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 1st August complains of the recrudescence of crime in some villages in the Midnapore district. Since the 1st June last, three murders have been committed within the jurisdiction of the Narayangarh thana, in the Midnapore district. A dacoity has also been committed in the house of Babu Kailas Chandra Chakravarti, of Babla, in the same district. Thefts are frequently taking place. This recrudescence of crime is due to the abolition of the police outposts in Sabra, within the jurisdiction of the Dantun thana, and in Belda, within the jurisdiction of the Narayangarh thana. It is hoped that the two abolished outposts will be re-established, or an outpost should at any rate be established at Khukurda, between Satra and Belda.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 2nd, 1900.

10. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 2nd August says that nowhere in Europe and America are public prostitutes entertained as actresses in theatres as they are done in the theatres of Calcutta. The danger to public and especially to school boy morality in Calcutta from the practice of engaging such women as actresses is known to all who care to enquire into the matter. It is a matter of regret that the number of such theatres is fast increasing in Calcutta. Recently a new play-house of this type has been opened under the name of the "Curzon Theatre," in Harrison Road. This house is advertising itself by sending its prostitute actresses in a carriage marked with the Theatre's name round the town. Lord Curzon's name should not be associated

with such a play-house. His Lordship would not certainly have allowed this to be done, if he had known of the internal working of these native theatres.

11. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd August complains of oppression committed by *badmashes* in Bagura, a village in the Jessore district. They destroy the rice crop by letting loose their cattle on the fields. They cut the rice plants and give them to their cattle to eat. Their children destroy the ears of corn. At harvest time these *badmashes* steal paddy. They have not a *bigha* of land, yet they have their houses stocked with paddy. How do they get it? They are too strong and turbulent, and it is impossible for the village people to keep them in check.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 3rd, 1900.

12. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 4th August complains that outrage on female chastity bids fair to become a matter of every-day occurrence in Bengal. *Badmashi* is no longer confined to Dacca, Mymensingh, and other East Bengal districts. Outrages on female chastity are being frequently committed even in the 24-Parganas district. The other day, two *badmashes*, Priyanath Gop and Bihari Mali, tried to abduct the young wife of Prahlad Mali, of Chhota Jagulia, in the Baraset subdivision of the 24-Parganas district. The woman raised a cry which drew some neighbours, and their appearance put the *badmashes* to flight. The *badmashes* have been put on their trial. The accused in such cases often escape scot-free, by taking advantage of legal technicalities. The matter ought to attract the notice of the Lieutenant-Governor.

NAVA YUG,
Aug. 4th, 1900.

13. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 5th August refers to one new and six very old cases of untraced murder, and also to some cases of untraced dacoity, both old and new, at Bansbaria in the Hooghly district, to show how inefficient the local police is. This recrudescence of crime is due to the abolition of the police station at Bansbaria. After the abolition of the police station, an outpost was kept up at the town, but the outpost has now dwindled into a beat-house. The beat for each *chaukidar* is too large for him. If a crime is committed at one end of the beat, the *chaukidar* at the other end can know nothing about it.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Aug. 5th, 1900.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

14. The *Som Prakash* [Calcutta] of the 30th July has the following:—

The Augustine case. It was wrong to take Dr. Gibbons's evidence for gospel truth. Dr. Gibbons ought to have been cross-examined. Cross-examination is the only way of drawing out truth from a witness, and we fail to understand why Dr. Gibbons escaped cross-examination. The Coroner at first declined to make any enquiry at all. Dr. Gibbons from the very first maintained that the death was caused by heart-disease, and his opinion was taken for granted by the Coroner as well as the Magistrate. Now, if the trial in such cases thus ends in a farce, the reputation of the British administration of justice will be materially injured; it will soon be a thing of the past. So long the Europeans only were acquitted even after killing natives. Henceforward even Eurasians, coming of European blood, going under European names, and dressing like Europeans, will kill natives with impunity. This impression has created a panic and discontent in the public mind.

SOM PRAKASH,
July 30th, 1900.

The authorities ought to take Dr. Gibbons's evidence into consideration, and it should be scrutinised with a special reference to the following points:—

- (1) Had Sarat heart-disease?
- (2) Is it possible that there should be heart-disease in an active and robust constitution?
- (3) Has heart-disease any external symptoms?
- (4) If the heart of a man weighs more than a pound, is it possible for him to be strong and robust?
- (5) Can any beating which leaves no marks, prove fatal?
- (6) Were any of the usual symptoms of heart-disease present in Sarat?

It is hoped that the authorities will call for the papers of the case. If such injustice is encouraged, native life will always be in danger. To tell the truth, the decision in the Augustine case has thrown the native public into a panic. It is feared that the Anglo-Indians will request the Government to pass a law to the effect that if a native gets killed by a European, and thus makes him commit a crime, he and his family should be convicted of murder, and his property should go to the Anglo-Indian who brought about his death. If they make such an application, it is sure to be favourably considered by the Government. When has the Government given up a measure in deference to native public opinion? Let a Bill purporting to meet the wishes of the Anglo-Indians be brought forward, and it will be passed, native opposition notwithstanding. Let us beware in time. But will not Lord Curzon look into the case?

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 31st, 1900.

15. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 31st July complains of the undue influence which a certain amla of a certain court in Burdwan has gained. The presiding officer of the court may esteem the amla as much as he likes, and the public will not object to his doing so. But as the amla stands in the way of pleaders and mukhtars, many secrets, it is feared, will come to light.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Aug. 1st, 1900.

16. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 1st August says that the sentence of two years' rigorous imprisonment passed upon Head-constable Asadulla Khan in the Murshidabad torture case has not been an adequate punishment, considering the gravity of the offence. The demon incarnate of Kamrup was sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment, although his demoniacal doings were of a less heinous nature than those of Asadulla. No earthly punishment is adequate for an offence like that which was committed by this man. Still for the sake of public morality, offenders like him ought to be sentenced to exemplary punishments.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

17. The same paper says that the result of the trial of the three Eurasian youths of Ulubaria has satisfied the public, although the punishment is not considered adequate to the offence. Most people did not think that a native Magistrate would have the courage to inflict even this punishment upon the Eurasians.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

18. The same same paper writes as follows:—

The Augustine case. With what words are we to console this old Brahman, bereaved of his son? The loss of his affectionate son has filled the world with darkness for him and made him disconsolate. He would have had some consolation if his son had died of disease, or even of the effects of snake-bite. It is his firm conviction that neither heart-disease nor mental excitement arising therefrom was the cause of his death. Dr. Gibbons would find it difficult to explain his evidence to medical scientists; much less can those who saw Sarat Chandra every day, and had perfect knowledge of his health, find any consolation in the doctor's evidence. People believe that the police investigation and the Coroner's verdict in the case were not as they should have been, and that Dr. Gibbons was not properly cross-examined. Every man may err, and can Dr. Gibbons affirm that he did not err, or that he is not at all liable to error? There was, in fact, something wrong in the conduct of the case from the beginning. What consolation can the poor Brahman give himself under the circumstances? However, what was to happen has happened. What was to be lost has been lost. Augustine's punishment would not have brought back to Sarat's father his son. We do not, therefore, wish to take any exception to the Magistrate's finding when he was satisfied, after taking evidence, of Augustine's innocence. Sarat's father is a Hindu—a Brahman. His sole consolation should now be the thought that his son suffered only the consequences of his *Karma*. He must think that it was *Karma* which led Sarat to mount the same tramcar with Augustine; that it was *Karma* which placed death in Augustine's fist. Or why should the object of his affection have such a sudden and miserable end? But it is of no use preaching to the sorrowing father on the consequences of one's *Karma*, or on the immortality of the soul. Time alone can alleviate his sorrow.

But something must be done for the sustenance of this poor Brahman, who has lost in his son his only support in life. Without questioning the result of the trial, all kind-hearted men should now see that the loss of his only earning son does not reduce the Brahman to starvation in this his old age. If some one takes the lead in the matter, by God's help subscriptions will not be wanting for the poor man's benefit.

19. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 2nd August complains that a "delay-fee" of eight annas is charged in the Khulna criminal court for delay in depositing process-fees. This is against the Criminal Procedure Code. Equally illegal is the court-fee charged for an appeal made through a pleader or a mukhtar. Another complaint against this court is that a copy of a judgment or any other document is not given to a third party. This is against a High Court circular on the subject.

KHULNA,
Aug. 2nd, 1900.

20. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd August complains that the Sub-divisional Officer of Tamluk in the Midnapore district has sentenced a woman eighty years old to one week's imprisonment for contempt of court. The offence of the woman consisted in her failing to appear in court in time in obedience to a summons.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 3rd, 1900.

21. The same paper comment on the decision in the Ulubaria case. Three months' imprisonment is not adequate punishment for such a serious offence. The Eurasians do not treat the natives as men. Otherwise these villains would not have dared to trespass into a house with coolies in a town like Ulubaria, where there are many educated people. The difference in the punishment inflicted on the several accused persons is not so much to be regretted as the extremely light punishment inflicted on them all. This was not expected from an experienced, spirited and just Deputy Magistrate like Mahim Babu.

HITAVADI.

22. With reference to the case of Akshay Chandra Chatterji, in which Mr. Hamilton, District Magistrate of Khulna, refused to accept security for good behaviour, the same paper writes that the Magistrate ought to have accepted security in the case. Many men of property came forward to stand sureties for the accused, and some of them even offered to deposit the amount of security. Was it not illegal on the part of the Magistrate to refuse the security? Does not a Magistrate who refuses to accept security in this way in order to punish the accused, cast a stain on the Bench? Mr. Hamilton not only refused to accept security, but also procrastinated in informing the accused whether security would or would not be accepted. The consequence was that the accused had to labour hard in jail. This ought not to take place under British rule.

HITAVADI.

But this is not the only instance of Mr. Hamilton's refusing to accept security. In the case of Panchanan Bagis, Mr. Hamilton ordered the accused to give security for Rs. 300. But when an application was made for the security, Mr. Hamilton recorded the following opinion upon the application:—"They are rejected as unfit. If they possess so much, Income-tax Deputy Collector should have enquiries made as to why they are not assessed?" This is really surprising. The income-tax cannot be imposed upon an annual income of less than Rs. 500. But a man possessing property valued at Rs. 500 or Rs. 600 can stand as surety for Rs. 300. How, then, did this question of income-tax arise? It is clear that the Magistrate tried to scare away the gentlemen offering to stand as sureties, by holding out this threat.

23. The same paper writes as follows with reference to the decision in the Murshidabad torture case:—

HITAVADI.

The punishment in the Murshidabad torture case.

Is this punishment adequate? If the police is let off with two years' imprisonment when they have committed a crime which even a fiend would tremble to commit, and which would move the obdurest heart, the offence remains virtually unpunished. Even eternal hell-fire would not be adequate punishment for these beasts. We fail to understand why the High Court has not enhanced the punishment in this case.

SAMAY,
Aug. 3rd, 1900.

24. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 3rd August has the following with reference to Dr. Gibbons's evidence in the Augustine

Dr. Gibbons in the Augustine case :—
case.

Even Mr. Pearson allowed himself to be blindly guided by Dr. Gibbons's evidence and arrived at the decision that although it was true that Augustine had struck the deceased with his fist, that did not bring about his death. Sarat's death was indirectly due to mental excitement. Granted. But was not this excitement caused by the beating? This being the case, ought not the Magistrate to have held Augustine responsible for Sarat's death? The Magistrate ought, moreover, to have ascertained whether or not Sarat ever experienced such mental excitement before. Had he no quarrel before—no fear, no anger, no grief, no pleasure to cause mental excitement? In this case, death was preceded by beating as well as excitement. Both beating and excitement should, therefore, be regarded as the cause of the death. To arrive at any other conclusion will be to go against the medical science. The following is taken from Dr. Taylor's Medical Jurisprudence:—

"DEATH FROM SHOCK.—This is sometimes a direct cause of death under the infliction of external violence; and in this case, life is destroyed without the injury being to all appearance sufficient to account for so speedily a fatal result. Whatever theory may be adopted to explain it there is no doubt that a person may die from what is termed *shock* without any marks of severe injury being discovered on his body after death."

Again :—

"As instance of this form of death from violence may be also cited those cases in which a person has been suddenly killed by a blow upon the upper part of the abdomen, or on the pit of the stomach, which is supposed to operate by producing a fatal impression on the nerves and nerve ganglia. . . . On the skin there may be some abrasion or slight discolouration, but . . . these are neither constant nor necessary accompaniments of a blow. Convictions for manslaughter have taken place when death had been produced under those circumstances."

In our opinion the above passages from Dr. Taylor's work ought to have been read out to Dr. Gibbons as well as the Magistrate. The public suspicion would have been laid at rest if Dr. Gibbons had refuted Dr. Taylor's opinion. But this was not done, and it is the public impression that grave injustice has been done in this case—that the Eurasian Augustine has been let off with a fine of Rs. 50 even after killing a healthy and robust Brahman youth in broad day-light. Augustine may or may not be really guilty of murder, but such an impression should not be allowed to take possession of the public mind. It is hoped that, as in the Sibold case, so in this case also, an appeal should be made to the High Court against this decision.

SAMAY.

25. The same paper writes as follows with reference to the decision in the Ulubaria case:—

The Ulubaria case.

The judgment and the sentence in this case do not satisfy us. The accused pursued a woman—it matters little that she was a washerwoman—and one of them held her by the hand. Still the trying Magistrate did not pass any separate sentence on the offender for this additional offence. Even if it is true that the accused were intoxicated at the time, intoxication would be no defence according to the law. But the accused were *not* so intoxicated as to lose all sense. They could distinguish between a man and a woman. They collected coolies and trespassed into the house of the washerwoman. They tried to drag the washerwoman's brother-in-law to their own quarters. Under all these circumstances, we cannot but say that the punishment has been too inadequate for the offence. We hope, however, that this incident will teach the authorities of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway a lesson. It is hoped that in future they will not appoint illiterate and low-class Eurasians as ticket-collectors.

DAINIK SAMACHAR,
Aug. 3rd, 1900.

26. The *Dainik Samachar* [Calcutta] of the 5th August says that, in

The Sannyasi's case in Mymen-singh.

disposing of the *Sannyasi's* case, Mr. Bonham-Carter, Magistrate of Mymensingh, committed some illegalities. His first illegal act was the hearing of the case by himself before the date fixed by the Senior Deputy

Magistrate. In this matter, Mr. Bonham-Carter ought to have profited by the lesson which was taught to Mr. Hamilton, Magistrate of Khulna. His second illegal act was the disregard of the High Court's ruling relating to the hearing of counter cases. It was not also right for him to pass such a severe sentence as seven days' rigorous imprisonment, when the maximum sentence provided by the law is only eight days' such imprisonment. The public should judge whether Mr. Bonham-Carter was right in disbelieving the evidence of respectable prosecution-witnesses and convicting the accused on the evidence of the police and two low-class Musalmans.

The Lieutenant-Governor should teach a lesson to Magistrates like Mr. Bonham-Carter. Without an expression of His Honour's displeasure these incorrigible officers cannot be made to mend their ways.

27. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 7th August fails to see the meaning of the unhappy remarks made by the

BANGABHUMI,
Aug. 7th, 1900.

The judgment in the Ulubaria case.

Deputy Magistrate of Ulubaria in the concluding passage of his judgment in the case of the

Eurasians, that the punishment inflicted on the first two charges being adequate and severe, he did not think it necessary to inflict any punishment on the last charge. Does the remark mean that no worth is to be attached to the chastity and honour of the woman, whose modesty was attempted to be outraged, because she was only a washerwoman? Or, does it mean that the Magistrate considered the punishment adequate, because the accused were Eurasians? Admitting that the accused were drunk when they committed the offence, is not the punishment light, taking into account the gravity of the offence? If such light punishment is considered adequate in such a case no drunkard will hesitate to lay violent hands on the modesty of any respectable woman, knowing full well that the utmost punishment that may be inflicted upon him is a fine of one hundred rupees.

28. The same paper is glad to see that Government has thought fit

BANGABHUMI.

The appointment of a second Deputy Magistrate to an Officiating District Magistrateship.

to appoint another Deputy Magistrate, besides Kumar Ramendra Krishna Deb, to an Officiating District Magistrateship. It is hoped that Kumar

Ramendra Krishna and Babu Kumud Nath will by their conduct justify their appointments and show that Deputy Magistrates are not unfit for promotion to District Magistrateships.

(d)—Education.

29. The *Sikshak Suhrid* [Dacca] of the 30th July regrets that while,

Mr. Pedler's non-inspection of the private schools in Dacca.

during his late visit to Dacca, Mr. Pedler inspected the Government educational institutions, he did

SIKSHAK SUHRID,
July 30th, 1900.

not condescend to inspect any of the private colleges or schools. As the inspection of a school by the high officers of the Education Department serves to encourage students, such officers should not grudge the time that may be required for making such inspection, nor consider it beneath their dignity to inspect private institutions. One fails to see why Mr. Pedler disappointed the students of the private institutions in Dacca by not visiting them.

30. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 2nd August says that one Jagadis

A death in the Hindu Hostel in Calcutta.

Chandra Rai, a student residing in the Eden Hindu Hostel in Calcutta, was attacked with fever

SANJIVANI,
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on the 20th July last, and was placed from that date under the treatment of the Doctor of the Hostel. He died on the 27th July. On that day, a brother of the sick boy wished to call in Dr. Nil Ratan Sarkar, but could not do so, owing to a rule prohibiting the calling in of any doctor without the permission of the doctor attached to the Hostel. The same rule also stood in the way of Dr. R. L. Dutt's paying a visit to the patient in time.

The death of this student has created a panic among the inmates of the Hostel, and Government should at once cancel the rule referred to above. Students should be given full liberty to call in any doctor they please.

It is a matter of regret that during the eight days that Jagadis Chandra lay sick, the Superintendent of the Hostel did not once enter into his room. The present Superintendent is an old man and cannot discharge his duties properly. He ought to be removed without delay.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 3rd, 1900.

31. A correspondent writes as follows in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd August:—

The Eden Hindu Hostel.

An inmate of the Eden Hindu Hostel has suddenly died of fever. It is said that the boy had heart-disease, although he was healthy and robust. This was exactly as it should be in these days of heart-disease. The boy was not under competent medical treatment. No information was sent to his friends and relatives, and the Superintendent did not take proper care of the patient. There is a *bustee* to the east of the Hostel, which is filthy in the extreme. Raw hides are noticed in this *bustee*, and the foul stench reaches even the rooms in the third storey. Almost every room in the eastern wing of the Hostel contains one or two patients. Why is not this state of things put an end to? The Superintendent is, so to say, beyond the reach of the Hostel inmates; he seldom meets the students. The students are in a manner left to themselves, and hence they are always found ailing.

The editor adds the following remarks:—

"We hear that Mr. James, a Professor of the Presidency College, paid three or four visits to the Hostel, and no doubt many complaints have been made to him. What is he doing? Why does not the Principal of the Presidency College pay a visit to the Hostel? What are the visitors doing? There is very great mismanagement in the Hostel. This is certainly to be regretted."

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Aug. 3rd, 1900.

32. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 3rd August writes as follows:—

Selection of text-books by District Boards.

Everybody will admit that those who are entrusted with the duty of selecting text-books for the use of school boys should discharge that duty carefully and impartially; that they should not show undue favour to particular authors; and that they should see whether a book is really suited to the capacities of the boys of the class for which it is professedly written. It is to be regretted that in the selection of text-books for use in schools in this country these principles are very frequently lost sight of. The Central Text-Book Committee merely pass a number of books and indicate the class or classes in which these may be read. As regards the lowest classes of the Lower Primary Schools, it is the Educational Sub-Committee of the District Board who are charged with the duty of selecting the text-books, and the selection is determined by a majority of votes.

Now, whether the object be to get returned to the Legislative Council, to be elected as a fellow of the University, or to be returned as a member of a District Board or as a Municipal Commissioner, the procedure to be followed for securing a majority of votes is everywhere the same. You must canvass for votes and procure letters of recommendation. The author of school-books must also do the same, and he who can do this well is the man whose book, whatever its merits or demerits, stands the best chance of being selected by the District Board.

The District Boards of the 24-Parganas and Nadia have lately selected *Nava Path*, Part I, by Kali Krishna Bhattacharyya, as a reader for the (B) standard of the Lower Primary Schools in those districts. What led the Boards to select this particular book while there were many other and better books fit for the (B) standard and approved by the Central Text-Book Committee passes our comprehension. But it is clear that they did not take the trouble to go through the book before prescribing it as a text-book for the standard in question.

According to the author himself, *Nava Path*, Part I, is intended for little boys and girls. But if the book was really intended for them, ought to have been half its present size, and contained at most 45 instead of the 90 pages of which it consists. It ought to have also contained illustrations and wood-cuts, which it does not. Its style is neither simple nor correct. There are really innumerable errors in the book. Most of the lessons are entirely unsuited to the capacities of children of seven or eight years of age. We shall give a few illustrations:—

The first lesson is on the rose and the manufacture of rose-water. Fit lesson, indeed, to teach the peasant boys of seven or eight years of age! "If the

fragrance of the rose is to be made more agreeable and lasting, then the rose should be subjected to some trouble, and should be put into water and the water should be distilled." We shall consider ourselves fortunate if children do not get the impression that the writer is here speaking of some boy (Master Rose), who should be subjected to some trouble; the idea of subjecting a flower to trouble not being at all likely to strike them. As for the author's description of the process of making rose-water, it is one which even grown up men, not to speak of little boys and girls, will be unable to follow. (See the foot-note on page 4.)

The same confusion is made in the second lesson, in which a boy named Sanat Kumar is spoken of as suffering trouble like the rose. The third lesson contains the story of a learned thief who discusses, in his own mind, the physical suffering and the mental anguish which follow the commission of theft. The thoughts are too profound for children, and are, moreover, such as children should not certainly be made familiar with. There are not a few sentences in this lesson which are perfectly unidiomatic. The fourth lesson is on grammar, a subject which is not read in this class nor even in the class above it. In the fifth lesson occurs the following sentence:—"You have seen a great many hard-hearted villains who consider their aged parents a burden." The sentence, as it stands in Bengali, is sure to be taken by children to mean that aged parents are heavy in weight because of their age. In the sixth lesson the word "*sabhya*" is used in two different senses, though there is nothing to indicate that such is the case. The eighth lesson contains a sentence which is unidiomatic, and in which the reader is taught that the tongue and the lips contain no bone, because it is God's intention that they should utter only soft words. Curious mixture of anatomy and morality!

In the ninth lesson occur the words "*mlechchha*" and "*metua*." Is every kind of refuse "*mlechchha*?" and do village boys know what a "*metua*" is? Here is an example of the beauty of the author's thought and language:—"For the purpose of keeping the earth clean God has issued such orders to those servants [the crow, the vulture, &c.] that they may not throw those dead carcasses or things elsewhere [for, in that case, the air will be contaminated in one place or another], but has directed them to swallow and digest the same." The tenth lesson: grammar again! In teaching compound letters by means of illustrative sentences the writer uses the sentence—"To be pure in heart is not an impossible task." What will children make of this? The eleventh lesson is perfectly unintelligible and shows a confusion of ideas in the writer's mind. Here is a passage:—"The bottom or basis of all things is thick and strong. The bottom of the cocoanut, the palm, the date, the mango and the jack tree is thick and very much substantial. You should take care to make the bottom strong. . . . If you can firmly lodge in your mind what you are learning in this your boyhood, you will have nothing to fear afterwards, you will always go on comprehending clearly and well, and be able to pass all examinations with credit." The following instruction is given in the thirteenth lesson:—

"*Prabodhini* asked:—"Father, why is it that a flash of lightning is immediately followed by thunder-clap?"

"*Father*:—"The lightning flash is not followed by the thunder-clap, but both take place at one and the same time. Light reaches our eyes soon, but sound takes a little more time to come. That is why we hear the sound later."

"*Prabodhini* asked [wondering]:—"Does sound take such a long time in coming from the clouds?"

"*Father*:—"The clouds are very high over head, and sound from the clouds must, therefore, take such a long time to come. Suppose you are standing on one side of a tank while a man is thrashing a piece of cloth on a masonry platform on its other side. You will find that when he thrashes the cloth no sound is heard, but one thinks that one hears it when he takes the cloth up to thrash it again. . . . When there is this little delay in the passage of sound over this short distance, why should there be no delay in the passage of sound from the clouds?" Is this a sufficient explanation of the fact that light travels faster than sound? There are many sentences in the next lesson which are open to objection from the point of view of language as well as sentiment. The fifteenth lesson: grammar again! A large number of stiff

words occur in this lesson. What will children or their teachers make of the dissertation in the seventeenth lesson on the colour of water and foam? Here is the passage:—"Water never looks white, but the colour of foam is always white, and it looks as if the white colour was in the foam. But, as a matter of fact, that is due only to light. If you carefully examine the big figlike bubbles that are formed by rain falling on water, you will see that images of all things fall on them just as images fall on a looking-glass. The tree, the branch, the sky, everything is reflected. Only that much looks white on which the image of light falls. For the sky is in day time full of light. Foam is nothing else than a collection of such very small bubbles. If the white shadow of light falls on every small bubble, why should not the whole foam necessarily look white?" The eighteenth lesson is intended to teach the spelling of words formed with a 'ꣳ.' It contains a large number of such words forming parts of sentences which do not often convey any meaning. The next lesson contains an ungrammatical sentence. In expatiating on the virtues of mustard oil in the course of the twenty-first lesson the writer states that "if the part of the body near the wrist is well pressed with mustard oil, it will prove as beneficial as a course of gymnastics." Is this scientific teaching? The whole book is full of such writing and its selection as a text-book has really surprised us. The book is a danger to pupil and teacher alike.

We respectfully pray to the Director of Public Instruction that he may be pleased to get the book examined and reported on by competent persons, ascertain whether or no our criticism is just, and lay down a satisfactory procedure for the selection of *Pathshala* text-books, under which it may be possible for the selecting authority to look to the welfare of the boys instead of attending to the pecuniary profits of particular authors. District Boards should not be entrusted with the duty of selecting such books. There is always the risk—and a grave risk—of these local bodies being subjected to local pressure and influence. It is clearly Mr. Pedler's duty to vest the power in this matter in such fearless and independent men as would be found inaccessible by authors and their patrons. The work of selection should also be performed in a secret and confidential manner.

There is no reason to think that a District Board would be justified in selecting a text-book merely because it has been approved of by the Central Text-Book Committee. Everybody knows that the Committee occasionally pass even bad books. Nor are the several books passed by the Committee for a particular class possessed of equal merit. It therefore follows that the authority charged with the selection of a text-book should himself take the trouble to go through the different books which are presented to him for examination.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Aug. 3rd, 1900.

33. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 3rd August draws the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor and the Director of Public Instruction to the paucity of good European Professors in the Education Department in Bengal. The staff of a model college, like the Presidency College in Calcutta, at least, ought to contain able Professors. But it would be no exaggeration to say that at present, except Mr. Percival, the very best man in the Education Department, there is no good Professor of English literature in that institution. Again Dr. Jagadis Chandra Bose has gone on leave, and the whole Department could not supply a man to fill his place, the officiating post being given to the Demonstrator of Physics in the College. This proves that the Department is in its worst condition now. Training in the B. course being highly expensive can be got nowhere, if not in the Presidency College.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR.

34. The same paper says that if the Middle English Scholarship Examination is to be maintained in Bengal, it should be maintained on the line followed in the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces, where students are sent up to a similar examination from the third class of Entrance Schools, and no boy of that class is promoted to the second class until he passes the examination.

Changes suggested in the educational system of Bengal.

The inclusion of letter-drafting and précis-writing among the subjects of study for the Entrance Examination will greatly benefit those boys who wish to become clerks, accountants, &c. Those two subjects may also, with great benefit to many, for instance, to those who wish to appear at the Sub-Inspectorship Examination, be kept up as optional subjects in the First Arts and B. A. Examinations.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

35. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 31st July says that cholera has been raging for some time in village Karanda, within the jurisdiction of the Satgachia thana, in the Burdwan district, and the people are getting neither good medicines nor good medical advice. The obstinate nature of the outbreak is probably due to the use by the villagers of bad water for drinking purposes, the water in the village tanks being unfit for such use owing to scarcity of rainfall.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 31st, 1900.

36. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 31st July complains of the inadequate width of the culverts under the portion of the railway line which cuts Mymensingh town into two parts. The narrowness of these passages prevents rain water from passing out as quickly as public health and convenience should require. There is no longer any difference of opinion as to the obstruction caused by railway lines to the drainage of the country being the cause of the country's ill-health. And the health of Mymensingh town is being slowly impaired by this obstruction to its drainage. The local Municipality should try to have the culverts widened. It may get all the help it requires in the matter from the present Magistrate.

CHARU MIHIR,
July 31st, 1900.

37. The *Pratinidhi* [Commilla] of the 31st July writes that Local Self-Government is in danger in the Tippera District. The Subdivisional Officer of Brahmanbaria has been nominated a Commissioner of the Brahmanbaria Municipality. There are many educated and respectable gentlemen at Brahmanbaria. Was there no one among them fit for the Commissionership? The Brahmanbaria Municipality has, since its birth, been able to do without the Subdivisional Officer. Why, then, the present nomination? It has never been complained that the elected non-official Commissioners have failed to properly discharge their duties. Why, then, this nomination of one official Commissioner? Mr. Kennedy never recommended the nomination of an official Commissioner, nor did Mr. Harris perceive the necessity of such a nomination. The object of nominating the Subdivisional Officer as a Commissioner is clear enough. It is, no doubt, the intention of the authorities that he should be elected Chairman. Is there no one to defeat this object?

PRATINIDHI,
July 31st, 1900.

38. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 1st August writes as follows:—

The working of the Charitable Dispensaries in Bengal during 1899.

From the annual returns on the working of the charitable dispensaries in Bengal, it is seen that during the year 1899 there were only 513 such dispensaries in the whole province, and that 47,857 indoor and 3,243,346 outdoor patients were treated in them, against 42,086 indoor and 2,837,759 outdoor patients treated in the preceding year. Considering that hardly one per cent. of the people who suffer from disease go to hospital to be treated, the figures given for the last year show how deplorably unhealthy was the condition of the province last year. Among these patients, the largest number were suffering from malarial fever. The disease was most prevalent in 39 districts, 623,173 patients were treated for it—a number higher by 95,477 than the number of the year preceding. If more than six million people were treated in the charitable dispensaries alone for malarial fever, it fills one with despair to think of the total number of people in the province who must have suffered from the disease during the year. The increase of fever cases in 1899 is attributed by the Government to heavy rainfall. Government has propounded no end of theories to explain the cause of malarial fever. These theories, if collected in a book, would make a large volume.

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Aug. 1st, 1900.

Malarial fever and diarrhoea, dysentery and cholera, are, in fact, depopulating the province. The number of patients suffering from diarrhoea, &c., who were treated in the hospitals last year, was 167,000, of whom 10,638 were cholera patients. If so large was the number of patients from these diseases in the hospitals, it is not difficult to guess how appallingly large was the number in the whole province and what a large number of men died for want of proper diet and medicines.

Government is leaving nothing undone to check the spread of plague, whilst it does not appear even to notice that the province is being depopulated by malarial fever and cholera. It could have saved many lives if it had spent for the treatment of malarial fever and cholera half the amount it spent and is still spending in the name of plague.

It is now the middle of the rainy season. If from this time Government stationed medical men with medicines in the unhealthiest villages in unhealthy districts, malaria mortality would be less than usual during the coming winter.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Aug. 1st, 1900.

39. The same paper fails to see why the proposed building for the Cossipore-Chitpur Municipal office, is proposed to be located, not in the centre of the Municipal area, but in one corner of it, namely, at Tala. Is this so, because of the five members composing the Building Committee, three reside in Tala? Only one member of the Committee raised a dissentient voice, and proposed a central position. The question was not discussed in the last two monthly meetings, but it is hoped that the proposal of a building at Tala will not be supported at the general meeting. The rate-payers should memorialise the Government on the subject. The best site will be at the crossing of the Grand Trunk Road and the Gun Foundry Road.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Aug. 1st, 1900.

40. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 1st August complains of the conduct of pound-keepers in the Murshidabad district. The *ijaradar* of Sujaganj is not in the habit of giving receipts for fines paid. He generally charges higher than the usual rates of fine. The pound-keepers should be required to put up a board on the pound wall, showing the rates of fine, so that no one may be compelled to pay more than the prescribed rates. Pound oppression will not cease so long as the Government does not appoint paid servants for the management of the pounds. The pound-contractors, who are generally illiterate and unprincipled, try their best to make as much money as possible out of the pounds. The cattle impounded are not properly taken care of. They are not properly fed, although their owners are required to pay for the food. The accommodation in the pounds is also very unsatisfactory, and impounded cattle are not provided with any shelter. It is hoped that the attention of the authorities will be drawn to this matter.

BARISAL HITAISHI,
Aug. 1st, 1900.

41. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 1st August draws the attention of the Barisal Municipality to the following municipal grievances:—

(1) A masonry drain has been constructed on one side of the Ampatti road in the Girija mahalla. The drain on the other side of the road is, however, *cutch*, and is a cause of insanitation. This drain, too, should be made *pucca* and connected with the masonry drain or with the neighbouring *khal*.

(2) The Hatkhola public latrine should be walled up. At present, it is an intolerable nuisance.

(3) The Fariaputti drain is in an unrepaired condition. This has made the drain unfilthy and a source of great nuisance. The drain should be repaired.

KHULNA,
Aug. 2nd, 1900.

42. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 2nd August makes the following complaints in connection with the Khulna burning-ghât:—

(1) No fuel is to be had near the burning ground. This is a great hardship, which should be removed.

(2) Two masonry pits should be constructed for the cremation of dead bodies. The necessity of such pits is very badly felt in the rainy season.

(3) Two masonry tanks should be constructed on the *char* to the east of the cremation ground. This will save people the inconvenience and hardship of drawing water from the river during ebb tide.

(4) The tin-shed on the cremation ground should have walls to protect people against rain during the rainy season.

It is said that the Chairman of the Municipality submitted a plan and estimate for the construction of two masonry pits and tanks. It is not known what has since been done to give effect to the Chairman's proposal.

43. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 2nd August hopes that the Government of Bengal will take into its favourable consideration the memorial of the rate-payers of the Jaynagar Municipality in the 24-Parganas district for the nomination of Babu Kali Nath Datta, of Majilpur, as a Commissioner of the Municipality. Babu Kali Nath is a pious, public-spirited man, and a friend of the poor. He has long served as a Commissioner, and the omission of his name from the last list of nominated members published by the Government has astonished the rate-payers.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 2nd, 1900.

44. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 8th August writes that the Government should keep a supervision over the working of the District Boards. The self-governing bodies do not appear to be very anxious to improve the sanitation of the country. Sometimes malaria or cholera devastates towns and villages. Could not a little effort on the part of the District Boards prevent this? It is only when a serious outbreak raises a hue and cry that the attention of the District Boards is drawn to village sanitation. This is not as it should be.

PRABHAT,
Aug. 8th, 1900.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

45. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 1st August says that the Government of Bengal's reply to the memorial of the raiyats of the Argoyal circuit, in the Midnapore district, has greatly disappointed them. The reply communicated by the Secretary to the Government to the Commissioner of the Division ran as follows:—

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ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Aug. 1st, 1900.

"In reply I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor understands that, owing to the serious damage done to their crops by flood, an all-round remission of 4 annas per rupee of the rents due from the petitioners was granted by you last year, on the condition that they paid up the balance by the 31st March 1900; but that as they persistently withheld payments of the entire rents due from them, certificates have been issued for the realisation of those rents. His Honour considers that though the raiyats have, through their own recusancy, forfeited the concessions made to them, remission should still be granted by the certificate officer in all deserving cases, and particularly those raiyats who pay up 12 annas of their rent demands of the last year by the 30th September next.

"It is true that rice being the chief crop of the tract, the raiyats will have no assets from the lands they had in those villages till the new winter crop is reaped. But it is reported that those people have other means of support than the produce of these lands. For these reasons the Lieutenant-Governor considers that a wholesale remission of the rents is out of question."

Government admits that floods did serious damage to the raiyats' crops last year. And the fact that the time for the payment of rents is extended proves that Government is aware that the raiyats did not wilfully refuse rents. The question is how will the raiyats who could not pay their rents by the 30th March pay them before the 30th September? The Government speaks with perfect reason when it says "that rice being the chief crop of the tract, the raiyats will have no assets from the lands they had in those villages till the new winter crop is reaped?" After this admission, one should expect a total remission of the last year's rent. But what is said later on has disappointed the raiyats and filled everybody with astonishment. Government says:—"But it is reported that those people have other means of support than the produce of those lands." Government should do nothing on hearsay in a matter upon which depends the happiness or misery of its subjects. If the raiyats in question have really other sources of income than the produce of their lands, Government should have openly stated what those sources are. So far as the

writer is aware, he has reason to believe that most of these raiyats have no other source of income than such produce.

It is hoped the Lieutenant-Governor will himself—during his present tour—make an enquiry into the condition of these raiyats and remit them the whole of this year's rent if he is satisfied about their deplorable condition and about their having no other source of income than the produce of their lands.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

KHULNA,
Aug. 2nd, 1900.

46. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 2nd August complains that the new timing of the Khulna mail trains, both up and down, will cause great inconvenience to passengers. The down mail train will leave Khulna at 9-30 P.M. The steamer from Barisal seldom reaches Khulna before 9 P.M., and the passengers by this steamer will miss the train from Khulna, and will be put to the hardship and inconvenience of passing the night at that place. The speed of the trains has also been reduced. A train on the Bengal Central Railway will now run only 12 miles per hour. Sixteen years ago trains on the same line used to run 17 miles per hour. The Company has revised the first and second class fares, and the period within which an ordinary return ticket is returnable has been reduced from six to four days. The second class compartments are not properly lighted.

(h)—General.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 2nd, 1900.

47. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 2nd August says that Babu Tarakeswar Das Gupta, a clerk in the office of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, who had served in the office since its establishment in 1885 with the greatest ability and had been praised by successive Directors and their assistants, obtained on the 24th January last two months' leave of absence on half-pay. When this leave expired, he applied for a further period of leave for three months without pay. He was granted this leave after some demur. But when on the expiry of this leave, he again applied for six or seven months' leave without pay, he was ordered either to join office at once or to send in his resignation. As the private affair, on account of which he had applied for leave, was of a pressing nature, he could not join office and had to send in his resignation. As Tarak Babu was a highly meritorious officer of more than ten years' standing, one fails to see why he was not allowed the leave he applied for and to which he was entitled under the leave rules. It is hoped that Mr. Lyon, the present Director of the Department, will reconsider his case. The Lieutenant-Governor's attention too is drawn to it.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HABLUL MATEEN,
July 30th 1900.

48. The *Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 30th July is sorry that a quarrel broke out during the last *Muharram* between the servants of Sir Asman Jah and some Hyderabad police officers. The cause of the quarrel is that when the *alum* procession arrived at the well, where the processions are made to halt, the police forbade the processionists to halt there. On the latter's refusal to do so, the police dispersed them.

The Nizam's Government ought to direct its attention to this matter.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 3rd, 1900.

49. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd August writes as follows with reference to the Government of India's order regarding jurisdiction over Europeans and Americans in Native States:—

Caste distinction is never likely to disappear from this country. During the Hindu rule, there was the distinction between Brahman and Sudra. During the Musalman rule, there was the distinction between Hindu and Musalman. During British rule, there is the distinction between European and Indian. If the Government of India's order is carried out in Native States, it will be impossible to keep the Europeans and Americans in check. Many Rajas and Maharajas live in constant dread of the Europeans. If the Viceroy's order is carried out, Europeans and Americans, and even Imperial Anglo-Indians, will

lord it over the Native States. We would not have said all this if these Europeans and Americans had not acquired any property and settled in these States, and if they had not been carrying on trade in those States. In Kashmir and Mysore, Hyderabad and Travancore, Europeans and Imperial Anglo-Indians, sanctified by European blood, possess plantations of tea and coffee, indigo and sugarcane, and are working coal, lead, gold, iron and mica mines. Thus they are amassing wealth in the Native States. But they treat the natives as coolies and try their best to get the greatest amount of work out of them. There is consequently more or less oppression in the Native States. The new order has bound the Native Chiefs hand and foot, and the people of the Native States are in constant dread of the Europeans. How will good administration be possible? But if Europeans are to enjoy such special privileges at every step, discontent will be created in the public mind, and this discontent will bring about such mental torpor as is induced by opium.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

50. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 31st July has received the following from correspondents:—

Crop prospects in the Burdwan district.

(1) For the last four or five years there has been no good crop in Arjuri, a village in the Burdwan district, and the people have lived from hand to mouth. This year the seedlings withered for want of rain, and the villages have no seed grains to sow again if there is good rain later on. They, therefore, despair of any crop this year. The *mahajans* are hesitating to lend paddy, and there is every danger of famine breaking out in the village next year.

(2) There has been no rain in the Raniganj subdivision of the Burdwan district, and sowings have not yet commenced.

51. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 1st August says that only a week ago a report was

Crop prospects in Bengal and elsewhere.

received from a Jessore correspondent that the *aus* crop promised to be an exceedingly good one.

The heavy rainfall of the week, however, has seriously interfered with these good prospects, both the paddy and the jute plants being attacked by insects. The raiyats have lost all hope.

A Jubbulpur correspondent has written to say that cultivation is at a standstill there owing to the failure of rain, and prices have gone up very high. Matters stand in a similar condition in many places in Bombay, the North-Western Provinces, and the Central Provinces. Bengal has supplied all these places with rice in the present famine. And the failure of the rice crop of Bengal this year is likely to bring distress over the whole country next year. Government should not, therefore, neglect to take precautionary measures.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

52. Referring to the unfounded telegram regarding Her Majesty's death,

The *Bengalee's* false telegram.

published in a recent issue of the *Bengalee* newspaper, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 1st August writes as follows:—

The management of the *Bengalee* newspaper seems to be in the hands of fickle-minded boys, who, in their eagerness to forestall others in publishing fresh news to the world, fail to distinguish between false and true news, and have, therefore, often to retract what they say. It is a pity, however, that they found no other false news to publish except that of Her Majesty's death? No one will now believe even any true news that may be published in the *Bengalee*.

The Lieutenant-Governor is reported to have said that the conduct of the *Bengalee* has brought disgrace on the whole native press. The truth is that a newspaper cannot be conducted by young men of unformed character who possess no sense of responsibility.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
July 31st, 1900.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Aug. 1st, 1900.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Aug. 1st, 1900.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 3rd, 1900.

53. A correspondent writes as follows in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd August concerning the management of the Hutwa Estate.

The raiyats under the Fehunia factory, who had become recalcitrant, declined to sow indigo for the factory, and said that they were prepared even to leave their homes rather than give up their resolution. Does the Lieutenant-Governor know that these recalcitrant raiyats were punished? Maulvi Samsujaha, Deputy Collector, was Officiating Manager of the Estate. Has the Lieutenant-Governor had the leisure to read his report? When Mr. Macpherson, Officiating Commissioner of the Presidency Division, was the District Magistrate and Collector of Saran, he came to know many things. Did he not bring those things to the Lieutenant-Governor's notice? Mr. Markham's star is now in the ascendant. The Lieutenant-Governor is his friend, and Mr. Bourdillon is his admirer. We are helpless and need not tell the stories about Mr. Markham, his horses, and his hunting.

BANGABANDHU,
Aug. 4th, 1900.

54. The *Bangabundhu* [Chandernagore] of the 4th August has the following:—

Indians mere puppets in the hands of Europeans.

It is not difficult to prove or understand that the Europeans in India have gradually come to look upon the natives with a feeling of envy and hatred. But why the Europeans alone? Even Eurasians, wearing hats and coats, do not hesitate to oppress the Indian people. They know that they have come of European blood, and it is their firm conviction that the Europeans will stand by them when they will be in danger. There are many grounds for such conviction. Only the other day Augustine No. 1 paid only a fine of Rs. 50 for doing Sarat to death, and Augustine No. 2 was let off by the police, although he had thrashed a *mehter*. All this leads us to think that the Indian people are mere puppets in the hands of the Europeans.

One topic leads to another. We have read in stories that during the Musalman rule, Rajas and Zamindars, Nawabs and Sardars, enjoyed the prerogative of killing seven persons with impunity. The poor were killed by the rich, and there was no remedy against the oppression. If any complaint was made to a Musalman Emperor it was at once laughed away. The rich were thus encouraged to oppress the poor. But those days are gone. These are the days of equality and fraternity, and the civilised English rule India. All impressions of the rigour of Musalman rule have been effaced from the Indian mind. The English teachings of equality have revolutionised Indian ideas. English civilisation has acted upon the Indian mind like magic, like enchantment. English education has led us astray from old ancestral ways and old grooves of thought. We have been made helpless puppets in European hands.

But no more digression. English race partiality has enabled us to realise some of the stories of Musalman rule. Let the Indian people patiently and uncomplainingly put up with British oppression and high-handedness. Let no stain be cast on Indian loyalty—on loyalty which is the boast and the pride of the Indian people. Let not history charge Indian loyalty with insincerity. Nothing like patience. You are mere puppets in European hands. Always keep yourselves at a safe distance from a European.

Let us show why we call the Indian people mere puppets. Many Europeans and Americans live in Hyderabad on business. The kind-hearted Lord Curzon has recently written a letter to the Nizam, telling him that the Nizam's Courts have no jurisdiction to try the European and American residents of Hyderabad. But this is not all. The Viceroy has also ordered the Native Chiefs to consult the Residents before undertaking to do anything. They will have also to appoint Europeans to high posts. This is why we say that the Indian people are mere puppets in European hands.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
July 18th, 1900.

55. In support of the view of its contemporary of the *Medini Bandhab*, the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 18th July states that cholera patients are not properly treated in cholera hospitals, and that due regard is not paid to human life, which ought to be looked upon as sacred,

56. Approving of the gift of a *jagir* in Chittagong to Baba Sarat Chandra Das, the same paper observes that Hindu and Muhammadan sovereigns, when they had any occasion to bestow a title on any of their subjects, were in the habit of making free gifts of lands with the title, whereas under the English rule gifts of land rarely accompany gifts of titles.

SAMBALPUR
HATAISHINI,
July 18th, 1900.

57. The same paper urges upon the postal authorities the necessity of detaining the mail train at the Bamra Station of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway for a few minutes with the object of receiving and delivering the Bamra *dal* at that station, and argues that the people of the Bamra estate are much interested in this much desired measure.

SAMBALPUR
HATAISHINI.

58. The same paper proposes that some enterprising Indians ought to try the experiment of exporting mangoes and other Indian fruits in a preserved condition to Europe and thereby open up a trade that may prove lucrative in the end. In support of his views, the writer points out how the fruit-sellers of California despatched preserved fruits to the Paris Exhibition, though the distance between those two places was 8,000 miles.

SAMBALPUR
HATAISHINI.

59. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 18th July calls upon the public of Orissa to hold meetings and support the proposal of the Orissa Association, Cuttack, for the separation of the judicial from the executive functions, now vested in the same district officer.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.
July 18th, 1900.

60. The *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 19th July is of opinion that seasonable rains have relieved all anxieties and that agricultural operations, including transplanting of rice, &c., are progressing in full speed.

SAMVADVHIKA.
July 19th, 1900.

61. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 25th July draws the attention of the authorities to a terrible state of things now prevailing in Angul and cites, in support of his contention, the example of the unfortunate potter Kantha Behera, of mauza Dumraon, in thana Angul, who, though living at a distance of about six miles from the Angul sadar station, killed his wife and two daughters, and then committed suicide, because they had had no food to eat for several days, and thought it wiser to terminate their existence than suffer the indescribable pangs of hunger.

UTKALDHIPIKA,
July 25th, 1900.

62. The same paper approves of the rules that have been recently promulgated in connection with the murder of Indians by Europeans, thanks Lord Curzon for the same, and hopes that they will be observed strictly.

UTKALDHIPIKA.

63. Referring to the proposal of the Raja of Puri to open the closed treasury of god Jagannath, which is reported to contain many valuable stones, gems and jewels, being the gifts made by his devotees in the past and present time, with the object of clearing up his debts and liabilities by the sale-proceeds of a portion of the same, the same paper contends that the treasury belongs to the Hindus in general, and that they cannot allow this unprecedented step to be taken unless it is proved clearly that the debts and liabilities were incurred in the discharge of his duties as Superintendent of the Jagannath Temple.

UTKALDHIPIKA.

ASSAM PAPERS.

64. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 31st July says that as the college which is going to be established at Gauhati owes its origin to Mr. Cotton, it should be named after him.

SILCHAR,
July 31st, 1900.

65. The same paper complains that Babu Dakshina Charan Sen, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Silchar, does not record any evidence in summary trials, though in regular trials he takes down the evidence with unnecessary detail. Though the law does not require the recording of evidence in summary

SILCHAR.

trials, the substance of all evidence, even in such cases, ought to be recorded for the sake of a due administration of justice.

SILCHAR,
July 31st, 1900.

66. The same paper complains that whilst the Silchar Municipality does not remove the accumulated filth from its own open drains, people who have *dobás* on their premises are being prosecuted and fined on the plea that water accumulating in these *dobás* is injurious to the public health. This is nothing but highhanded conduct on the part of the Municipality. The rate-payers of Silchar should establish an association for the purpose of bringing to the Chief Commissioner's notice all acts of oppression and highhandedness committed by the municipal authorities.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 11th August, 1900.